



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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### **18 VAC 85-101 – Regulations Governing the Licensure of Radiologic Technologists and Radiologic Technologists-Limited Department of Health Professions**

January 17, 2002

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The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 9-6.14:7.1.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 25 (98). Section 9-6.14:7.1.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

### **Summary of the Proposed Regulation**

The proposed regulation provides an alternative avenue of obtaining a radiologic technologist-limited license in bone densitometry. Under the new regulations, the Board of Medicine would accept the training course, examination, and certification by the International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD) to qualify an applicant for a limited license to practice in bone densitometry. A proposed amendment would also allow the board to accept continuing education hours from additional entities for the radiologic technologist-limited whose scope of practice is bone densitometry.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

The Board of Medicine regulates the practice of radiographic technology and licenses individuals to perform such procedures. A "radiologic technologist-limited" performs diagnostic radiographic procedures limited to specific anatomical areas of the human body. Current

regulations for licensure as a radiologic technologist-limited require a person to have 40 hours in general knowledge of x-rays and at least 10 hours in the specific anatomical areas for which licensure is being sought, as well as successful completion of the core examination of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) in addition to the section of the examination on specific radiographic procedures in the anatomical area in which the applicant intends to practice. The ARRT examination for Limited Scope of Practice in Radiography does not currently include content areas on procedures for the abdomen and pelvis or for bone densitometry. Until such examinations are offered by ARRT, the board allows persons to be licensed in these areas by submitting a notarized statement attesting to the applicants training and competency.

Under the proposed regulation, the Board of Medicine would accept the training course, examination, and certification by the International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD) to qualify an applicant for a limited license to practice in bone densitometry. According to the board, the technical skills and medical knowledge base required to proficiently perform bone densitometry are far better covered by the ISCD course than the current ARRT-directed core curriculum.

Bone mass screening is the single best predictor of osteoporosis, a common and very costly metabolic bone disorder affecting many Virginians. Providing an additional avenue to qualify for a limited licensure in bone densitometry has the potential to increase the availability and access to bone mass screening (densitometry), especially in medically underserved areas of Virginia. Since the ISCD certification process is considered by the Board to be more relevant to duties of the bone densitometry technician than the current ARRT curriculum and exam, the proposed regulation can be expected to increase the supply of bone densitometry technicians without any decrease, and possibly an increase, in the quality of care provided.

## **Businesses and Entities Affected**

By expanding the pathways to qualify for a limited licensure in bone densitometry, the proposed changes may increase the number of individuals licensed to perform such procedures, which could be beneficial to medical and diagnostic practices, especially in medically underserved areas of Virginia. There are currently 25 individuals with limited licenses to perform bone densitometry. It is not known how many individuals would seek the ISCD

certification in order to be licensed in Virginia or how many individuals who are already ISCD certified might apply for the Virginia limited license.

### **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed changes may increase the availability and access to bone mass screening, especially in medically underserved areas of Virginia.

### **Projected Impact on Employment**

The proposed changes are not expected to have any impact on the overall level of employment in Virginia. However the proposed changes may increase the number of individuals licensed to perform bone densitometry procedures and could increase employment in this field.

### **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The proposed changes are not expected to have any effects on the use and value of private property in Virginia.